



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES**

**500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
Website: www.laccod.org**

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

1:00 PM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-0380)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: President Troost, Vice President Neal, 2nd Vice President James, Commissioner Chang, Commissioner Colley, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Teran and Commissioner Wright

Absent: Treasurer Weller, Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish and Commissioner Welt Narro

Excused: Commissioner Gureckas and Commissioner Reitnouer

Call to Order. (12-0311)

The meeting was called to order by President Troost at 1:10 p.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- 1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of December 21, 2011. (11-4830)**

On motion of Commissioner Colley, seconded by Commissioner Miller the item was discussed. During discussion, Commissioner Neal made a request to amend Item 8 of the minutes to include discussion regarding the Metro Line going through Crenshaw Boulevard.

Commissioner Colley, accepted the amendment.

Therefore, at the request of Commissioner Neal, and on motion of Commissioner Colley, seconded by Commissioner Miller, unanimously carried, the item was approved as amended.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Approval of letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Commission concerns with Access Services on: (1) the TAP Card Program; (2) the restructuring of its Community Advisory Committee; and (3) the types of transport vehicles purchased by Access Services. (Continued from the meeting of 9/21/11 and 11/16/11.) (11-4160)

On Motion of Commissioner Neal, seconded by Commissioner James, the item was discussed.

Rhonda Rangel, Commission Staff, provided an update on this item noting it was discussed in length in September 2011, and presented for approval in November 2011. Due to the lack of a quorum, the item was not approved. Commissioners were asked on both occasions to provide input to enhance the letter, and several Commissioners provided input through discussions and email.

Further discussion ensued, Commissioner Wright made a motion instructing Commissioners to first speak with their respective District Deputy prior to sending the letter. Doing so, would allow the District ample time to properly address the Commission's concerns. Said motion failed for lack of a second.

Daniel Garcia, a member of the Public urged the Commission to send the letter as soon as possible.

Teddi Remhild, also a member of the Public, stated that it is important for the Commission to inform the Board of information that is being presented to the Commission by the community they serve. She further urged the Commission to send the letter.

Commissioner Neal made a motion, seconded by Commissioner James to delete the reference of Toyota Prius from the letter and note "small vehicle" instead.

After further discussion, Commissioner Colley called for a Roll Call Vote.

Therefore on motion of Commissioner Neal, seconded by Commissioner James, the item was approved as amended with the following vote:

Ayes: 4 - President Troost, Vice President Neal, 2nd Vice President James and Commissioner Teran

Noes: 3 - Commissioner Chang, Commissioner Colley and Commissioner Wright

Absent: 4 - Treasurer Weller, Commissioner Miller, Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish and Commissioner Welt Narro

Excused: 2 - Commissioner Gureckas and Commissioner Reitnouer

Attachments: [DRAFT SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[FINAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Approval of Bernard Siegel / Bill Tainter scholarship recipients for 2011. (Continued from the meeting of June 15, 2011.) (11-2723)

On motion of Commissioner Neal, seconded by Commissioner James, (Commissioner Miller being absent) unanimously carried, this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PRESENTATION

4. SET ITEM 1:30 p.m.

Presentation by Andi Krusoe and Debbie Sands of Guide Dogs of America as requested by President Troost at the meeting of November 16, 2011. (12-0328)

Ms. Andi Krusoe of Guide Dogs of America and Deborah Sands, DJS Personal Consultant Services, provided each Commissioner with a reference folder and additional information regarding service animals. In addition to their presentation, they clarified several misconceptions about service animals such as:

- The role of a services animal
- The legal definition of a service animal
- The types of questions allowed regarding service animals

Ms. Sands noted a service animal is a dog. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) states that it is up to each individual County to decide if they want to deviate from what is a service animal. The term "comfort dog" is not recognized. Los Angeles and Orange County have stipulated they will follow ADA regulations to the letter of the law, that a service animal is a dog. The ADA allows someone to inquire the physical task of the service animal assisting and individual with their disability. However, the ADA does not allow an individual to ask someone their type of disability.

Ms. Krusoe added guide dogs are not required to wear a leash to be a service animal. However, the dog must be under the control of the person it belongs to and should be well behaved. This can be either by leash or by voice command. Federal law does not require anyone to have identification showing their dog is a service animal. There are some individuals that train their own dogs. Additionally, certification is not required for service animals. In conclusion, service animals need to be well behaved. If the service animal is ill-behaved and the person is asked to keep the animal outside, this does not mean the constituent cannot be served. There is a fine line that many business owners do not wish to cross when it comes to service animals.

Currently a new program is being developed for our veterans coming back from Afghanistan and Iraq, who suffer from PTSA (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome). Special dogs are being trained to assist veterans to deal with PTSA.

The ADA is currently looking to recognize miniature horses as service animals. There is a division in South Carolina that is training miniature horses to be service animals because horses live longer than dogs. The ADA has looked at monkeys and found that even though monkeys do well with people at home, they do not do well in public.

Los Angeles County Transportation Authority ADA Compliance Administrator, Chip Hazen clarified transportation agencies do not have to comply with DOJ (Department of Justice) requirements. Transportation agencies are funded by the DOT (Department of Transportation) and their requirements are different than that of the DOJ. The Department of Transportation states transportation agencies must transport most everything that a disabled person has with them, with the exceptions of rodents, snakes and reptiles.

Daniel Garcia, a member of the public, asked what can the public do to assist in getting information out to the public.

Robert Coto, Los Angeles County Client Coalition, asked for low cost training facilities for those that need training for their own dogs. Ms. Sands stated they are not aware of any facilities for those animals. She added most organizations providing service animal usually utilize their own animals.

Teddi Remhild asked if agencies like Guide Dogs of America provide service animals only for the blind. Are there other agencies that can provide service animals? Ms. Krusoe stated, service dogs are generally for the blind, however the Guide Dog Foundation has a program called the Vet Dog Program. This is for people with disabilities other than blindness. Ms. Krusoe recommended ADI (Assistance Dogs International), since there are so many different types of disabilities and many schools that can be utilized. The ADI is a coalition of assistance dog programs that has certification.

Ms. Sands and Ms. Krusoe were asked to utilize the Commission's Disability Network hosted by Commissioner Neal to further inform the public about service animals.

After discussion, by Common Consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. REPORTS

5. President's report as submitted for the month of December 2011. (12-0301)

President Troost presented his goals for the upcoming year with his report for December 2011. He asked that Commissioners submit input via staff. Commissioner Wright commended President Troost for providing the Commission with his goals.

After discussion, by Common Consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Monthly Report by Angela Davis, J.D., Senior Deputy, Disability Civil Rights of the LA County Chief Executive Office. (11-5520)

Ms. Davis provided an overview of her submitted report and responded to questions posed by the Commissioners.

After discussion, by Common Consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Monthly report by Louis Burns of Access Services, Inc. (12-0302)

Mr. Burns presented a verbal report and responded to questions posed by the Commission on the Customer Service assessments being performed by Access Services. He added that he will be working on developing a statistical report on complaints regarding the accessibility of the small vehicles used by Access Services. This is part of the environmental impact report for the County of Los Angeles. The report may show the validity of concerns brought before the Commission. If so, Access Services may need to address the possibility of changing the small vehicles to a vehicle with more accessibility.

Mr. Burns also reported, Access Services was a guest on the Disability Network. During the show, they addressed a new program called "Options." This program is part of the Mobility Management and Free Fare program. These programs are designed to provide additional services to those riders that have had limited service.

Robert Coto addressed the Commission and added his complaint regarding the lack of accessibility in small vehicles.

After discussion, by Common Consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

8. Report by Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Administrator, and Giovanna Gogreve, ADA Paratransit Program Administrator for the Los Angeles County Transportation Authority (METRO). (12-0303)

Mr. Hazen and Ms. Gogreve presented a Power Point presentation on the Bus Stop Usability Study which included the following goals of the study and they responded to questions posed by the Commission:

1. To perform comprehensive inventory and assessment of existing conditions at bus stops including path of travel throughout Los Angeles County.
2. To prepare a County-Wide Plan identifying needed improvement and establishing criteria for prioritization of improvements; and
3. To facilitate coordination by involving key stakeholders in the study including organized disability groups, ADA liaisons from city and county governments.

Daniel Garcia addressed the Commission and asked if Metro had a list of the bus stops that were not accessible. Ms. Gogreve responded by noting there will be follow-up reports as more information is developed by Metro.

After discussion, by Common Consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Report by Kurt Hagen, Commission on Disabilities appointee to the Access Board regarding Access Board meeting attended. (12-0307)

There was no report given. The next Access Board meeting will be January 23, 2012. No action was taken by the Commission.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

10. Announcements by Commissioners. (12-0308)

Commissioner Teran attended the Empowerment Conference. She submitted flyers on Cancer and Special Needs Children that might be of interest to the Commission.

Commissioner Neal reported there was not a Transportation/Events Committee meeting in January. She also praised a television show titled "Off Their Rockers" because seniors and people with disabilities were being featured.

After the announcements, there was no discussion or action taken by the Commission.

Matters Not Posted

11. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Committee, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-4822)

No matters were posted.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-0309)

The following members of the public addressed the Commission:

1. **Maggie Hui of the Disability Rights Center announced they will hold a seminar for students and their families attending LAUSD Charter schools regarding special education rules and their rights. This seminar will be held at Disability Rights Legal Center on February 11, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person.**
2. **Rodolfo Mendez is looking for assistance in acquiring a job.**
3. **Daniel Garcia reiterated on Mr. Mendez' request.**

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of January 18, 2012. (12-0310)

On motion of Commissioner Neal, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 3:26 p.m.